

IN THE ABSTRACT:

The Abstract is amended herein as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[A] An automatic web transfer mechanism [provides,] in a flexible sheet material dispenser[, automatic transfer of web feed from a working roll to a reserve roll, using a sensor plate] includes a web-sensing member operatively coupled with a transfer arm. [A sensor plate providing a pivotable stub roll receptacle cover] The member senses the absence of web from [the] a stub roll at a pre-feed portion between the stub roll and a feed roll nip to activate a transfer of feed to the web of a reserve roll. The transfer is initiated by a transfer arm that advances the reserve web into the proximity of the feed roller nip. [The pre-feed sensing position of the sensor plate makes the web transfer mechanism well suited to adaptation to known dispenser types including a web cutting knife which emerges from within the feed roller. At the same time, double feed of web material at the time of transfer is minimized.] In a second aspect, a movable front shield opens automatically upon opening of the outer dispenser cover, presenting an opening for pre-transfer placement and retention of a leading edge of web material from the reserve roll. Upon closure of the dispenser cover, the front shield returns to a closed position placing the transfer arm in a pre-transfer set position.